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It's All About the Wonders of God's Love

After this sermon time together, we are going to sing one of the season's most popular songs, "Joy to the World." Why? Well, as I pondered the message for the week, I kept hearing the words, "and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love."

The wonders of his love, indeed. For the most part, I believe that this is the meaning of Christmas. Time to feel the joy of new life and the hope of new life and the blessedness of peace and love in our lives. There is power in this season that can shock us out of our apathy and rejuvenate even the scrooges or pessimists among us. Hence, the story of Scrooge...and the story of the Grinch that tried to ruin Christmas for the Who's in Whoville. Even Scrooge's heart was changed, even the Grinch's heart was changed. Hearing these stories changes us. Even when we don't think we could possible have room to grow and change, these stories change us.

Just like hearing the stories of Mary, mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth, mother of John of Baptist, who was barren for years before John came along.... Stories of angel visits and messages from God and impossible things becoming possible. These stories change us. Little by little, inch by inch, cell by cell! So many stories in our Bible that have power to transform and heal the brokenness in our lives!

Switching gears: So often we hear debates about science and religion...and how they are mutually exclusive. I disagree. In fact there is one branch of science that has, I believe, come to a place that can begin to talk about the power of God

and the power that Jesus harnessed in healing the sick. Quantum Physics. How many here have heard about quantum physics? The foundations of QP were established in the first half of this century by scientists like Max Plank, Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr, Schrodinger and others. For a very long time, the scientific view of the world rested on the notion that there are solid, indestructible particles that are the building blocks of matter and life. It was believed that these particles moved in space and influenced one another according to unchangeable laws. Well, scientists, like the ones I mentioned, shattered this scientific view of the world with their research. They discovered that when a piece of supposedly solid matter, a rock or human hand, is placed under a very powerful microscope, it is actually made up of long, spiral molecules and emptiness....and that all these molecules sway like wheat in the wind. What holds them together is a form of energy. So, then, we look at the molecules, and guess what? They are made of atoms dancing around. We look even more closely...and guess what? We see electrons. And inside the electrons? Emptiness? And look more closely there is a nucleus. That, too, dissolves. Everything dissolves into a rhythm, a dance.

Scientists today are studying “quarks” and it appears that even these quarks dissolve into vibration. So what are our bodies made of? Emptiness and rhythm! Nothing solid. Only rhythm. Only energy. This is very interesting! As writer and meditation teacher, Jack Kornfield wrote, “When the mind becomes very silent, you can clearly see all that exists in the world are brief moments of consciousness arising together with the six sense objects. There is only sight and the knowing of sight. Sound and the knowing of sound. Smell and taste and the knowing of them, thoughts and the knowing

of thoughts. If you can make the mind very focused, as you can in meditation, you see that the whole world breaks down into a sea of consciousness.”

The most exciting part of all of this, I think, is the implication for us! If none of us are actually solid, if we are all made up of energy, the energy of God, than guess what? We are **truly** all One! We are all part of everyone and everything else in existence. As a hospital chaplain I had the honor of visiting with people who had had near death experiences....and they expressed this same idea. That when we leave this shell of our bodies, we end up in this “consciousness” that some call “Love.”

Chris and I recently watched a really interesting movie about quantum theory. “What the Bleep Do we Know.” A whole bunch of scientists and theologians get together and talk about their work and about “God,” about the miracle of being made up of the energy of God and about how few of us actually understand the implications of this...or value it. The scientists talk about our human thoughts and about how powerful they are. That thought alone, meditation and prayer alone, have been able to create or destroy. Jesus walked on water, in other words, because he believed he could. He healed, because he KNEW that he was made in God’s image and that God is the sea of possibility. Jesus begged his disciples to have this faith. Faith to walk on water, faith to heal. Jesus begs us to believe that we, too, have this power of God in us. That we are, in fact, made up of the power and consciousness we call “God.” Jesus knew that someday we’d all reach that level of awareness...and called it the Kingdom of Heaven.

Meditation study-2003 in DC, 4000 volunteers from 100 countries
Came together to meditate for long pds of time and believed they would reduce violent crime by 25%. Guess what? They did.

Water study-Dr. Masaru Imoto did research with the molecular
Structure of water...because water is the most receptive of the

4 elements. He photographed water with a dark-light microscope and found that after a blessing by a Buddhist Monk the molecular structure of water actually changed. you will see pictures of water molecules taken after various thoughts were directed at it or written on the bottle the water was in. "Love" looks different from "Thank you" which looks very different from "You make me sick and I want to kill you." -consider that women's bodies are 50-60% water and men's bodies are 60-65% percent water. (showed slides taken from www.hado.net)

So what about Jesus' birth? Could it be that his birth was the birth of awareness, the birth of consciousness, the birth of infinite possibility in the world? Could it be that Jesus tried to teach us all that every single one of us is effecting reality by our thoughts? That every single one of us is a Wonder of His Love? That at the deepest level, WE ARE ONE and a Wonder? Yes, I think so?